the Regional Centre for Space Science and Technology Education in Asia and the Pacific has been accepted by the United Nations, as reported in the Hindustan Times dated 27th February, 1995;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) by when and where the centre would be set up in India and the time likely to be taken for its growing as a network institution with major modes to cover specific programme elements in established institutions related to space technology in this region; and

(d) whether Government expect larger U.N. financial assistance and also likely to make more Central budgetary provisions in the financial year 1995-96 for enhancing further its own indigenous capabilities in space technology?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) Following a resolution of the UN General Assembly endorsing a recommendation of the UN Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS) that the UN should lead an international effort to established regional centres for space science and technology education in existing national/regional educational institutions in the developing countries, China, India, Malaysia, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Thailand offered to host this centre for the Asia Pacific Region. A UN evaluation Mission examined these offers and finally came to the conclusion that the offers and commitment made by India in its proposal favour an early establishment and operation of the centre in this region. The UN Office for Outer Space Affairs subsequently issued a statement identifying India as the location for this centre.

(c) The proposal from India is based on initiating the antivities of the centre with the use of facilities available at the India Institute of Remote Sensing, Dehra Dun; Space Applications Centre, Ahmedabad, and Physical Research Laboratory Ahmedabad, and enhancing these facilities subsequently. A draft agreement relating to the administration of the centre is under consideration of the countries of this region, and its functioning can commence on signature of this agreement and the setting up of the Governing Board. It is planned for this centre to grow with major nodes in other countries of this region on a progressive basis.

(d) Yes, Sir.

Chinese opposition in the setting up of UN space centre in India

783. SHRI G Y. KRISHNAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether, as per the decision taken at the 32nd session of the UN Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS) held in Vienna to develop a Space Science and Technology Education Centre in developing countries, initial work on

the establishment of the Centre in India was undertaken as per subsequent decision taken at a meeting held in Bangalore in January last;

(b) whether China has opposed the establishment of the United Nations' Regional Centre for Space Science and Technology for Asia and the pacific in India; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor and Government of India's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI): (a)

(a) In response to a UN General Assembly's endorsement of a UNISPACE'82 recommendation, the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA) developed a proposal for the establishment of centres for space science and technology education in developing countries. Based on this the UN Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS) recommended to the General Assembly that the UN should lead an international efforts to establish regional centres for space science and technology education in existing national/ regional educational institutions in the developing countries. China, India Malaysia, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Thailand offered to host this centre for the Asia Pacific Region. A UN evaluation Mission examined these offers and finally came to the conclusion that the offers and commitments made by India in its proposal favour an early establishment and operation of the centre in this region. The UN Office for Outer Space Affairs subsequently issued a statement identifying India as the location for this centre. This was duly noted by COPOUS at its 32nd session held at Vienna in February 1995. A meeting of the countries which made proposals and others in the region which have significant space activities took place at Bangalore in January 1995, at which time a draft agreement to be signed by the countries relating to the establishment of the centre and its administration was drawn up.

(b) and (c) China has expressed its view that the procedure adopted for the selection of the centre was flawed because it was inconsistent with the principle of democratic consultation and that, although the Office for Outer Space Affairs was aware of the different views of the Member States on this matter, the selection had not been based on consultations among Member States of the region nor on the consensus agreement of Member States of the region that are members of the Committee. India maintained that the decision to locate the centre in India was taken by the UN Office for Outer Space Affairs following a UN Evaluation Mission Report. India has also taken steps for setting up the centre, at the earliest.

12.00 NOON

(**The Deputy Chairman** in the Chair)

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

Notifications of the Ministry of Civil Supplies, Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution.

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI BUTA SINGH): Madam, I lay on the Table, under sub-section (4) of section 83 of the Standards of Weights and Measures Act, 1976, a copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following Notifications of the Ministry of Civil Supplies, Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution:—